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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/370,935 08/09/99 SERETTI H 990809

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LM02/1221

EXAMINER

RETTA, Y

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2764

DATE MAILED:

12/21/99

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/370,935

Applicant(s)

Seretti et al.

Examiner

Yehdega Retta

Group Art Unit

2764

☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Aug 9, 1999

☐ This action is FINAL.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle* 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

## Disposition of Claim

☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application

Of the above, claim(s) 3, 4, 9, 11, and 14-16 is/are withdrawn from consideration

☐ Claim(s) is/are allowed

☒ Claim(s) 1, 2, 5-8, 10, 12, 13, and 17-30 is/are rejected.

☐ Claim(s) is/are objected to.

☐ Claims are subject to restriction or election requirement.

## Application Papers

☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

☐ The drawing(s) filed on is/are objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.

☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☐ All ☐ Some\* ☒ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been

☐ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number)

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a))

\*Certified copies not received:

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

## Attachment(s)

☒ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s) 3

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

— SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES —

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## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Berent et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,774,873, in view of Hunt et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,893,091.

3. As per claims 1, 2, 12, 13, 22-26, 28, 29, 30, Berent et al. teaches a plurality of computer terminals, each including an input device for inputting vehicular characteristics and financial data (see figure 1 and column 6 lines 27-33 and column 9 lines 40-50); a processor for controlling the vehicular data inputted into the first terminal and transmitted to plurality of other terminals for display (see column 6 lines 1-56). Berent discloses a central database for storing the vehicular data that is displayed on several terminals (see col. 6 lines 53-57), but does not specifically disclose vehicular data selectively displayed on one of the plurality of terminals and the vehicular financial data units inputted at the responding one is transmitted to the first terminal for display. Hunt et al. (Hunt) disclose a processor for distributing timely information over a computer

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network by first organizing the information and then broadcasting it to clients in the form of alerts (see abstract). Hunt also discloses that the system could be used to sell and buy items (see col. 6 line 32-45). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify Berent's invention by replacing the central processor with Hunt's processor in order to distribute the information in real time.

4. As per claims 5-7 and 17-19 Berent et al. teaches vehicular characteristics data units include a make, a model and a year and description of the vehicle, wherein the description includes at least one of the body type, color, mileage and general condition of the vehicle (see column 6 line 27-33).

5. As per claims 8, and 20, Berent et al. teaches vehicular financial data units of the vehicle include at least one of a bid price amount, an assessment price amount, a wholesale price amount, and a retail price amount (see column 9 lines 34-37).

6. As per claim 10 Berent et al. teaches information identifying a source of vehicular financial data units transmitted (see column 9 lines 1-20 for pre sale registration which identifies the bidder).

7. As per claims 21 and 27 Berent disclose interactive bidding between motor vehicle dealers (see col. 1 lines 35-50).

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*Conclusion*

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Rose Jr., U.S.Patent No. 5,521,815, teaches Uniform System For Verifying And Tracking Articles of Value.

Fujisaki U.S. Patent No. 4,789,928, teaches Auction Information Transmission Processing.

Herz et al. U.S.Patent No. 5,754,938, pseudonymous server for system for customized electronic identification of desirable objects.

Ryu et al. U.S.Patent No. 5,634,048, Distributed database system having a center system with a link file and a method for retrieving data from same.

Chang U.S.Patent No. 5,694,594, system for linking hypermedia data objects in accordance with associations of source and destination data objects and similarity threshold without using keywords or links-defining terms

Barrett et al. U.S.Patent No. 5,727,129, network system for profiling and actively facilitating user activities.

Dasan U.S.Patent No. 5,761,662, personalized information retrieval using user-defined profile.

Davis et al. U.S.Patent No. 5,796, 952, method and apparatus for tracking client interaction with a network resource and creating client profiles and resource database.

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9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yehdega Retta whose telephone number is (703) 305-0436. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Trammell can be reached on (703) 305-9768.

Any response to this office action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 308-9051, (for formal communications intended for entry)

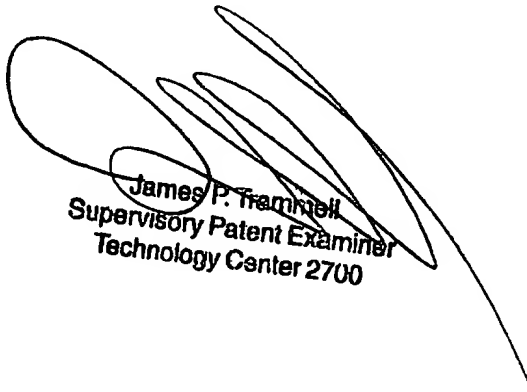
or:

(703) 308-5397, (for informal or draft communications, please label "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive Arlington, Virginia, (Receptionist).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Examiner

  
James P. Trammell  
Supervisory Patent Examiner  
Technology Center 2700

Yehdega Retta  
Art Unit 2764  
December 19, 1999